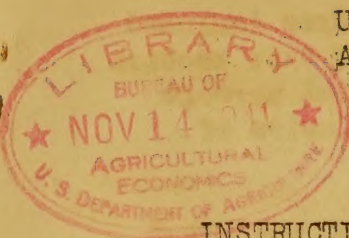


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No. 552UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION1941 RANGE CONSERVATION PROGRAM
SOUTHERN REGION BULLETIN 552

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COUNTY COMMITTEES AND RANGE INSPECTORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXECUTION OF FORM SR-552, "BASIC INFORMATION ON RANCHING UNIT," AND FORM SR-552-A, "REPORT OF EXAMINATION AND REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION."

(Applicable only to Oklahoma and Texas)

PART I. GENERAL

The execution of Form SR-552-A, "Report of Examination and Request for Participation" (hereinafter referred to as form 552-A), will be required for each ranch in the program for 1941. It will also be necessary to execute a Form SR-552, "Basic Information on Ranching Unit" (hereinafter referred to as form 552), for each ranch in the program for the first time in 1941 and for each ranch which is reconstituted for 1941.

The examination of the ranch by the range inspector shall be made in accordance with the instructions set out in the 1941 Range Handbook, and the necessary entries shall be made on one copy of form 552-A at that time. If the ranch is in the program for the first time in 1941 or if it is reconstituted for 1941, the range inspector shall also execute form 552.

The 1941 serial number for each ranch to which a serial number was assigned under the 1940 Range Conservation Program shall be the same as in 1940 unless the ranch is reconstituted for 1941. The serial numbers for those ranches which were not in the program in 1940 or which are reconstituted for 1941 shall be assigned in numerical sequence immediately following the series of 1940 numbers. All ranching unit serial numbers shall be preceded by the letter R.

PART II. EXECUTION OF FORM 552-A BY RANGE INSPECTOR

The range inspector shall make the necessary entries on one copy of form 552-A in accordance with the following instructions. The name of the county, the State and county code, and the ranch serial number should be shown in the space provided. If the form 552-A is being executed for a reconstituted ranching unit, reference shall be made in the space provided to the serial number(s) of the ranching unit(s) as previously constituted. (Example: Part of R-251; or, R-363 and R-372, etc.)

Under Section 1, "Identification and Condition of Ranching Unit", the range inspector shall indicate the name(s) of the operator(s), the name of the ranching unit, the legal description of the ranch, the

present condition of the range, and the number of pastures included in the ranching unit. There shall also be indicated in this section on the line designated "Name of Ranching Unit," the total acreage in the ranch and the number of acres of range land exclusive of farm land.

Under Section 2, "Number of Livestock and Grazing Capacity", the range inspector shall enter in lines 1, 2, 3, and 4 in column (b) the number of head of the various kinds of livestock now grazing on the ranch and the number of animal units of each, and in line 5, column (b), the total in terms of animal units as defined in the Range Handbook. The entry in line 6, column (b), shall be determined by dividing the total number of acres of range land in the ranch by the number of animal units in line 5, column (b). Figures to be entered in column (c) shall be the same as the corresponding figures on Form SR-452 for the ranch, unless there are justifiable reasons for changing them. For a ranch for which a Form SR-452 was not executed in 1940, or for ranches which are reconstituted for 1941, the range inspector and the ranch operator shall jointly determine the entries for lines 1, 2, 3, and 4, column (c). The entry in line 6, column (c), shall be determined by dividing the total number of acres of range land in the ranch by the number of animal units in line 5, column (c).

The entries to be made in line 7, columns (e) and (f), for a ranch which was in the program in 1940 should be the same as those determined for the ranch for 1940 unless there is evidence that such figures are not in line with similar figures for other ranches in the same county or area or an inspection has been requested in 1941 by the ranch operator or is deemed necessary by the county committee, State Committee, or the Director of the Southern Division. In the case of a ranch inspected for the first time in 1941, the figures entered in line 7, columns (e) and (f), should be those computed by the range inspector in 1941 on the basis of his examination of the ranch.

The ranch inspector, in making his recommendation of grazing capacity in line 8, columns (e) and (f), shall take into consideration the entries in line 7 and all other data on form 552-A, giving particular attention to the use of the ranch, the number of livestock that have normally been carried on the ranch, the normal annual rainfall for the area in which the ranch is located, and whether any range depletion which is due to lack of vegetative cover or any encroachment of range-destroying plants or weeds has been caused by drought or by over-grazing. If the ranch was in the program in 1940, the range inspector shall, of course, take into consideration the grazing capacity established for the ranch for 1940.

In Section 5, "Practices, to be Carried Out in 1941", the range inspector shall enter in column (b) the amount of each practice now existing on the ranch which was carried out prior to December 1, 1940; in column (c) he shall enter the amount of each practice requested by the ranch operator to be carried out (or which has been

carried out) under the 1941 program; and in column (d) he will enter his recommendation of the practices to be carried out in 1941. Under practice 1, item (b), there shall be entered a description of any supplemental practices approved by the State Committee for the county and recommended by the county committee to be carried out on the ranch in question in 1941 in connection with practice number 1 (natural reseeding by deferred grazing).

The degree of infestation of each of the destructive trees or plants involved in practices 12, 13, and 14 will be the percentage of the ground covered by the total spread of such trees or plants, as estimated by the range inspector. (See the practice specifications in the Range Handbook as to what constitute "light infestation," "medium infestation," and "heavy infestation.") In order to make a reliable estimate as to the percentage of coverage of such trees or plants, the range inspector should step off a representative twentieth or tenth of an acre of the infested area; measure the ground covered by all such trees or plants thereon; determine the percentage of coverage on such area, and use this percentage as the basis for arriving at the percentage of the entire infested acreage. If the percentage infestation under practices 12 through 16 is found to be less than the minimum percentage specified for the practice, the ranch inspector shall enter in column (a) the entire acreage on which the practice will be carried out. In such cases the entry in column (d) shall be the acreage for which credit is recommended by the range inspector.

In Section 4, "Signatures", the signatures of the ranch operator and range inspector should be affixed at the time of the range inspector's visit to the ranch.

PART III. EXECUTION OF FORM 552 BY THE RANGE INSPECTOR

The examination of the ranch by the range inspector for the purpose of executing form 552 shall be in accordance with the instructions herein set out. Form 552 shall be prepared in the original by the inspector and shall show the name of the county, the State and county code, and ranch serial number. If the form 552 is being executed for a reconstituted ranching unit, the serial number(s) of the ranching unit(s) as previously constituted should be shown.

Under Section 1, "Identification and Condition of Ranching Unit", the range inspector shall indicate the name(s) of the operator(s), the name of the ranching unit, the legal description of the ranch, the present condition of the range, and the number of pastures included in the ranching unit. There shall also be indicated in this section on the line designated "Name of ranching unit" the total acreage in the ranch and the number of acres of range land exclusive of farm land.

Under Section 2, "Condition of Range", the range inspector shall indicate in line 1: (a) the principal varieties of grasses and the percent of the range covered by each grass; (b) the principal varieties

of the palatable plants and shrubs on the range, and the percent of the range covered by each; (c) the principal varieties of the range-destroying weeds, and the percent of the range covered by all; in line 2 the density of all vegetation on the range and the percent of such vegetation which is palatable; in line 3 the range inspector's estimate of the amount of rainfall for 1938, 1939, and 1940, and the normal rainfall on the ranch; in line 4 the type of range; in line 5 the nature of the land; in line 6 the name of any poisonous weeds in the order of their density, the percent of the range infested by each, and the number and kind of livestock normally lost annually from such poisonous weeds; and in line 7 the kinds of rodents in order of their number and the percent of the range infested by each.

In Section 4, "Map of Ranching Unit", a map of the ranch should be drawn showing the location of the various parts of the ranch, the location of headquarters, fences, windmills, wells, tanks, springs, lakes, streams, existing range-building practices carried out prior to December 1, 1940, and the location and extent of such practices as will be carried out under the 1941 program. The map need not be drawn to exact scale, but should be readily understandable and sufficiently definite to convey an accurate statement of such facts. Whenever possible the entire map of the ranch should be drawn on one form 552.

In Section 3, "Signatures", the signatures of the ranch operator and range inspector should be affixed at the time of the range inspector's visit to the ranch.

PART IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF GRAZING CAPACITY AND
APPROVAL OF PRACTICES BY THE COUNTY
COMMITTEE ON FORM 552-A

Based upon the information entered by the range inspector on form 552-A and the final grazing capacity established for the ranch for 1940 (if the ranch was in the program in 1940), the county committee shall enter in line 9 of form 552-A its recommended grazing capacity for the ranch. The grazing capacity of the ranch shall be established on the basis of the normal, not the temporary, grazing capacity.

The State office will notify the county office of the grazing capacity limit, expressed in acres per animal unit, established for the county under the 1941 Range Conservation Program. The average of the grazing capacities for all ranches in the county when weighted by the acreage of range land shall not exceed the official county grazing capacity limit. If it is necessary to adjust the recommended grazing capacity in line 9 of form 552-A in order to come within the county grazing capacity limit, the adjusted grazing capacity shall be entered in line 10, columns (e) and (f), of the form.

In Section 3, "Estimated Range-Building Allowance", enter in the first space in line 12 the number of acres of range land in the ranch and enter in the second space the figure 2. The product of these

two entries is the amount of the range-building allowance established at the rate of 2 cents per acre and shall be entered in the space provided in this line. Enter in the first space in line 13 the number of animal units approved by the county committee in column (f), line 10, or in line 9 if there is no entry in line 10, and enter in the second space the figure 90. The product of these two entries is the amount of the range-building allowance established on the basis of 90 cents per animal unit and shall be entered in the space provided in this line. Enter in line 14 the sum of the amounts computed in lines 12 and 13.

If the entry in line 14 is less than \$160 and the number of acres of range land in the ranch is 2,000 or more, the total estimated range-building allowance for the ranch shall be \$160, and the entry in line 14 should be corrected accordingly.

If the number of acres of range land in the ranch is less than 2,000, enter in the first space in line 11 the number of acres of range land in the ranch. Enter in the second space in line 11 the figure 8. Enter the product of these two entries in the space provided in this line. If the amount computed in line 11 exceeds the entry in line 14, the amount computed in line 11 is the amount of the total estimated range-building allowance for the ranch and the entry in line 14 should be corrected accordingly. If the amount entered in line 14 exceeds the amount computed in line 11, the entry in line 14 will be the estimated soil-building allowance for the ranch.

It is to be noted that in any case where the entry in line 10, column (e), is more than 60 acres or less than 10 acres, the limitations provided in the third paragraph of Section 2 of the 1941 Range Handbook are applicable and must be used in determining the amounts to be entered in line 12 or line 13, respectively.

Notwithstanding the application of these limitations, the soil-building allowance for ranches having 2,000 acres or more of range land shall be not less than \$160.00. For ranches having less than 2,000 acres of range land, the soil-building allowance shall be not less than the amount derived by multiplying the acreage of range land by 8 cents.

The county committee shall enter in column (e), Section 5, of form 552-A, such of the practices which have been requested by the operator of the ranch and recommended by the range inspector as it determines will effectuate the purposes of the 1941 Range Conservation Program. In determining whether given practices are desirable for the particular ranch, the committee shall give consideration to the effect of the practices in checking the depletion and in rebuilding the vegetative cover of range land, in preventing erosion, and in controlling stream flow. Before approving any supplemental practices in connection with practice number 1 (natural reseeding by deferred grazing), the county committee shall satisfy itself that such additional practices are needed in the interest of range conservation on the ranch in question.

The county committee may approve practices which have already been initiated at the time the form 552-A is executed, except any which were begun by the ranch operator prior to December 1, 1940. In approving any practice for 1941, the committee shall indicate with colored pencil on the map of the ranch in Section 5 of form 352 if the ranch was in the 1940 program, and in Section 4 of form 552 if the ranch has been reconstituted or is in the program for the first time in 1941, the location and the extent of the practices which are to be carried out.

The use of columns (f) and (g), Section 5, of form 552-A is optional, but in no case should these columns be executed on the original form which is transmitted to the State office.

PART V. PREPARATION OF ADDITIONAL COPIES OF FORMS
552 AND 552-A, APPROVAL BY COUNTY COMMIT-
TEE, AND TRANSMITTAL OF STATE OFFICE

After the pencil copy of form 552-A (and the pencil copy of form 552 if prepared in 1941) has been completed and the county committee has found it to be correct, two typed copies shall be prepared. Both typed copies, as well as the pencil copy of form 552-A, shall be signed in Section 4 C by a member of the committee. (If form 552 has been prepared, both typed copies, as well as the pencil copy, shall be signed in Section 3 C by a member of the committee.) It is not necessary that the ranch operator or range inspector sign the typed copies; however, their signatures must appear on the pencil copy of the form(s). The original typed copy of form 552-A (together with the original typed copy of form 552, if prepared in 1941) shall be submitted to the State office on Form SR-415, "Transmittal Sheet", in accordance with instructions issued by the State office. The other typed copy of form 552-A (together with the other typed copy of form 552, if prepared in 1941) shall be handed or mailed to the ranch operator. The pencil copies of all forms 552-A and 552 shall be retained as a part of the permanent records of the county office.

Issued January 8, 1941, with the approval of the Administrator.

C. D. Walker

C. D. Walker,
Acting Director, Southern Division.